



Coffee Break Training - Responder Health and Safety

The Other PAR, **Person**AI Responsibility

No. HS-2013-2 May 22, 2013

Learning Objective: Given a fire department's guiding documents and standard operating procedures, firefighters shall conduct themselves with personal responsibility every day.

The personnel accountability report is utilized in various activities on the fire ground. The use of PAR allows the command staff to know that all personnel are accounted for and not lost or injured. It keeps everyone safe and should be part of all standard operating guidelines.

Another important use of PAR for every person in the fire service is the individual's personal accountability and responsibility. Fire service personnel spend an abundance of time in all aspects of fire service operations: fire suppression, prevention and hazardous materials, to name a few. Safety should be stressed in all areas of operation, and in particular the firefighters' well-being. At all times, firefighters and fire officers must become personally responsible for their own actions and at the same time be in compliance with their personnel accountability report.

Stop and take a moment to assess your own safety situation and act in accordance with the SOPs. Examples of personal safety include:

- Wearing your seatbelt at all times.
- Wearing personal protective equipment.
- Keeping vigilance with situational awareness.

The goal is 100 percent compliance, resulting in no injuries or deaths.

Every fire department should issue guiding documents to provide direction for firefighters and fire officers for their personal responsibility. Mission Statements, Vision, Goals, Code of Ethics, Codes of Conduct, SOPs and SOGs are examples of guiding documents that deal with personal responsibility.

- Do you know where your department's guiding documents are located?
- Have you read the guiding documents and do you understand them?
- When did your organization update the guiding documents?

Source: National Fire Academy's course, "Training Program Management," April 2013 — Emmitsburg, Md.



Firefighters must be personally responsible for their own actions, including seatbelt use at all times.



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